

Draft of the Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2009

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Meeting opened at 12:40 p.m..

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp, Richard Arnold and Larry Hall. Peter Danton excused absence.

Staff members present: Exec.Director Robert Welch, Det. Don Armstrong, Auditor Scott Woods and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

Legal counsel: Lara Nomani, Ass't A.G.

Minutes from December 10, 2008 meeting

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes

Seconded: Dick Arnold

Vote: 4-0

Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch

- Mr. Welch advised that WMS Gaming has been renewed their Distributor license.
- # of calls to Bangor PD to the facility has increased, but not increased in the severity of calls – 13 total in December with one arrest for criminal mischief and two arrests for trespass.
- Community Study as requested last year by the board – Mr. Welch has inquired from agencies about doing the study, but he is doubtful that anyone in Bangor will do it without a large fee, which would start at about \$45,000.
- NAGRA Conference – Mr. Welch sent in the paperwork for two board members to attend, once he received the Agenda for the Conference.

Financial Update – Scott Woods

Mr. Woods reported back to the board after having been asked to research how the Univ of Maine gives out their scholarships (as they receive monies from the racino revenue towards scholarships). The response is that scholarships are given out to all freshmen to seniors who are in need financially for a scholarship. All seven Universities receive the monies to give out.

State Police Activity Update – Det. Don Armstrong

Det. Armstrong advised the board that he continues to do as always suitability investigations for all applications received new and renewals. The Unit received 15 applications since the last meeting in December. The Inspectors in Bangor forward any incidents to Don that may not be regular in nature. Since the last board meeting, 11 incidents have been received. Usually these are unfounded or unproven.

Unfinished Business

A. Fine/Violations Sub-Committee Report – Cushing Samp – no report at this time.
A meeting is planned for Feb 3rd at 1:30 p.m.

B. Delegation of Authority in the Gambling Control Unit

Commissioner Jordan advised that budget wise things are in the air still.

Motion: Dick Arnold motioned to continue this until the next meeting

Seconded: George McHale

Vote: 3-1

C. Review of comments received for Hollywood Slots extension of Sunday hours

Lara Nomani made the following summary on this issue: In October, 2008, HS requested that its Sunday hours for slot machine operation be expanded to include the hours between 8:00 a.m and 12:00 noon. Because the slot machine hours of operation are set forth in the governing rules, this request, if accepted, would requires a change to the existing rules. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of a proposed rule which would expand the Sunday hours as requested. The Gambling Control Board held a public hearing on November 25, 2008 to obtain comments with respect to the proposed rule change to Chapter 8, Section 2(B). Nobody appeared to offer testimony at the hearing. Public comments were accepted through December 5, 2008. Nobody offered comments during this period. On December 10, 2008, the Board voted to extend the written comment period through January 7, 2009. More than two hundred comments were received. The Board now should take this opportunity to discuss the comments collectively with regards to the various positions raised either in support of or in opposition to the proposed rule. At the next Board meeting, Board members will be asked to vote whether to adopt the proposed rule. Should they decide to do so, the APA requires that the Board adopt a written statement explaining the factual and policy basis for the rule. The Board will also be required to file with the Sec. of State's office the names of all persons and organizations who submitted comments, a summary of those comments and the Board's response to those comments. Based upon the general discussion today, the Executive Director will prepare a draft submission of Board's responses to comments. Those responses will be voted on by the Board at the next meeting.

Next meeting February 11, 2009 Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Chamberlain
Secretary